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THE
HISTOR
OF

George A Gree

PINDAR of the Town

WAREFIELD

HIS

Birth, Calling, Valour, and
putation in the Country

WITH

Divers Pleasant, as well as Seric
fages in the Course of his L
and FORTUNE.

Illustrated with CUTS.

— *Famam extendere Factis :*
Hic Virtutis Opus. —

Virg. lib. Æne

L O N D O N :

Printed for Samuel Ballard, at the Blue
Little-Britain. 1706.

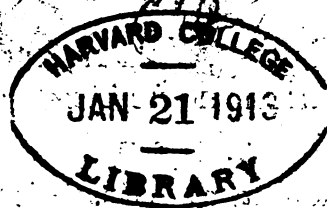
THE
HISTORY

OF
GEORGE A. SYMONS

OF THE TOWN OF

WATERBURY

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Hall's fund

MAY 23 1913

TO THE
STEWARD,

And Other the
Gentlemen and Inhabitants

IN THE
Town and Lordship of *Wakefield*,

IN THE
West-Riding of the County of York.

GENTLEMEN,

TO whom but to you should
I address this History
of *George A Green*, who was
some time the *Pindar* of your
good Town of *Wakefield*. Your
Ancestors were those that foster-
ed him, when an Orphan; they
were

Epistle Dedicatory.

were also those, on whom in
in his maturer Years, with great
Generosity and Unanimity, they
conferred the *Pindarship*; and it
cannot be believed, that you,
their Descendants, will now in
this Dress refuse him that Pro-
tection, which he according to
his wonted singular Modesty,
not only implores, but with all
due Submission, thinks himself
in some measure intitled to.

Your Townsmen, *Gentlemen*,
he was, born among you; ex-
ceedingly beloved in his Life-
time; and his Memory is still
fresh and alive with you,
for his Valour, Courage, and
the many good Services he did
you.

I shall not, *Gentlemen*, antici-
pate your Expectations by enu-
merating

Epistle Dedicatory.

merating here the glorious Acts perform'd by him ; they will best appear by the ensuing History, which is now put into your Hands, in humble Expectation of your favourable Acceptance.

Gentlemen, As seeing the *Pindar* cannot but promise himself in this manner a kind Reception from you ; it would be a Crime to question you should be any ways wanting in your Civilities to the fair *Beatrice*, who was as celebrated for her Virtue and Beauty, as *George* was for his Valour and Courage.

As for the other Persons that are necessarily introduced to render the Story congruous and the more intelligible, you are free

Epistle Dedicatory.

free to judge of them, as you think fit. All that I desire is, leave to hope that your Censure will be favourable both in respect to them, and to

GENTLEMEN,

Your Humble Servant,

N. W.

THE

T H E

P R E F A C E.

WAKEFIELD is a Market-Town in the West-Riding of Yorkshire, in the Hundred of Agbridge, upon the River Calder, here covered with a fair Stone Bridge, which Edward the Fourth, King of England, adorn'd with a stately Chappel: Its a large Town, well bairt of Stone, of good Antiquity, and drives the Cloathing Trade. Of this Place it was, that George A Green was Chosen Pindar, so long since as the Reign of King Richard the First, as you'll find in the Sequel of the History.

As for Pindar, 'tis a peculiar Word and Office in the North of England, that implies, one that looks after Strays, and the like, being much the same as Pound-
a Keeper

The PREFACE.

Keeper in the Southern Parts of the Kingdom.

That there was such a Person as George A Green, who was Pindar of the Town of Wakefield, I think, is not at all to be doubted, from many Considerations ; to say nothing of the many Signs we have of him, not only in and about London, but in several other Parts, the constant and uninterrupted Tradition from Father to Son, they have retain'd of him to this Day in the North, and more especially in the Place of his Nativity, is no small Proof of it.

*Indeed, I do not find the Pindar's Name mention'd in any of our Chronicles, but those of Robin Hood and Little John, who were George's Contemporaries, being recorded in Hollingshead, and there being some of the Descendants of Little John, who bore, and they from him, the Surname of Nailor, still, or at least very lately, in being in the Kingdom, - I cannot conceive this makes against, but rather for our present History, the Acti-
ons*

The PREFACE.

ons of the other Two, in all Probability, happening to become more cognizable to that Chronicler, upon Account of their being Outlaws, and the Depredations they committed, than those of George's, who, as he continued steadfast in his Loyalty to his Prince, follow'd also an honest and lawful Calling: Its true, he was as conspicuous, and rather more for his Valour, than any of them all; which must needs recommend him to the good Opinion of the Brave and Generous; and 'tis not to be imagined that any should value him the less, because he was more vertuous than the Other.

I confess, it pleases me not a little, that George is taken Notice of by Mr. Butler, the Famous Author of Hudibras, an immortal Piece; and the same seems to be a Confirmation upon the Main of the Truth of this History: For in his First Canto of the Second Part, having brought Hudibras to promise his Mistress he would suffer a Whipping, on Condition she would have him, and being not able to perswade his Man Ralpho to undergo the Punishment

The PREFACE.

for him, he fell to Threats, as if he would beat him, saying,

If not, resolve before we go,
That you and I must pull a Crow.

To which the Other answer'd,
Y' had best (quoth Ralpho) as the An-
[cients
Say wisely, have a Care 'th' main
[Chance,
And look before you, e're you leap ;
For as you sow, y' are like to reap.
And were y' as good as George A Green,
I shall make bold to turn agen ;
Nor am I doubtful of the Issue
In a just Quarrel, and mine is so.

As for the History it self, its very easie to observe by its Phraseology and Manner of Writing, that 'tis not very Modern, but that the Manuscript must at least have been as old as the Days of Queen Elizabeth. Its lodged in a publick Library in the City of London, from which a Copy was taken, and is now made pub-

The PREFACE.

publick, with no other Alteration, than such as were necessary to make the Sence tolerably congruous.

We do not pretend to vouch for the Truth of this History in every Particular: It was the Practice of the Times, upon such Occasions as these, to imbellish Truth (as the Writers imagined) with some of their own Inventions, but it not being easie at such a Distance nicely to distinguish the One from the Other, we chose rather to put it entire into the Hands of the Gentle Reader, to whose Censure and Determination we do wholly submit it.

However, to pleasure him so far as it lay in our Power, and to set George forth in as conspicuous a Manner as the Circumstances of Things would admit: We have added several Cutts to the Work, one of which represents the Pindar's Person, and the rest the most memorable Transactions of his Life, especially his Acts of Valour, wherein he excelled,
and

The PREFACE.

*and for which he is justly Celebrated to
this Day, and the Publication of this his
History is design'd for the Perpetuating
of his Fame to all future Generations.*

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tuation and Distances of their Provinces,
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rical Remarks upon the Places of Note,
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THE

THE
HISTORY
OF

George A-Green,

PINDAR of the Town of
WAKEFIELD, &c.

CHAP. I.

Of the Parentage and Birth of George A Green; and of some Accidents that happen'd to him in his Childhood, before he could hardly write Man, which gave great Hopes of his farther Strength and Valour.

THAT this HISTORY may gain the greater Credit and Countenance, and not incur the Imputation of a vain and fabalous Discourse (of which Number this Age hath already been
B abused

abused with too many) I thought it the best Course, both for the Reputation of the Work, and the Encouragement of the Reader, to follow and observe an exact Computation of Time; as also, all the Series of such Circumstances, as are not only known, but very remarkable in our best and most approv'd Chronicles.

Thus therefore it followeth:

Hen. II.

The Reign of *Henry* the Second of that Name, King of *England*, the Son of *Geoffrey Plantagenet*, Earl of *Anjou*, and *Maud* the Empress; Daughter of *Henry* the First, and younger Son to *William* the Conqueror, began in the Month of *October*, in the Year after our Blessed Saviour's Incarnation 1155. and in the Nineteenth Year of *Lewis* the Eighth, King of *France*. He was a Prince of so great Valour and Courage, that he was often heard to say, *That the World was not sufficient to contain or limit a valiant and magnanimous Spirit*. Neither did his Words come much short of his Heroical Attempts, for he subdued *Ireland* by the Sword, and surpriz'd *William*, King of *Scots*, in Battle, joining and annexing the Kingdom unto his own. He comprehended all the Land and Continent from the South Ocean to the North Islands of the *Orcades* under due Principality and Government, now spaciouly extending his Empires more than any

The great
Empire of
Hen. II.

Pindar of the Town of Wakefield.

3

any of his Progenitors: For not any King of *England* before his Time held so many Countries and Provinces under their Dominion and Government; for, besides his own Kingdom and Crown, of which he was immediate and apparent Heir, and unto which he was lineally descended: He had under his Rule and Command, the entire Dukedoms of *Normandy*, *Gascogne* and *Guyenne*, *Anjou* and *Chinon*; besides, he subjected unto him *Auvergne*; with divers other Lands and Territories. Moreover, by his Wife *Eleanor* (who had been before divorced from *Lewis* the Eighth; King of *France*) he had in Dower the *Montes Pyrenæi*, the *Pyrenean* Mountains that divide *France* and *Spain*. He had by this Queen a fair and hopeful Issue, namely, Five Sons and Three Daughters. His Sons were *William*, *Henry*, *Richard*, *Godfrey*, and *John*, of which Two only succeeded him in the Kingdom, viz. The Third Son *Richard* (after for his invincible Courage surnamed *Cuer de Lion*) and *John* the Younger. The Eldest of his Daughters was call'd *Maud*, who was married unto the Duke of *Saxony*. The Second, *Eleanor*, espoused to the King of *Spain*. The Third, *Jane*, after Wife to *William*, King of *Sicily*. This King was very prosperous in the Beginning of his Reign, but in the Latter-end very unfortunate; for, as *Gerald* the Chronicler re-

The
Princely
Issue of
Hen. II.

The HISTORY of George A Green,

cordeth of him, He reigned Twenty Six Years in all Worldly Prosperity, and to the Content of his Heart; but the next Four Years with Difficulty and Trouble, and the Five Years after that with infinite Vexation and Sorrow: But the first Com-bustions that grew in the Kingdom, were about the Twentieth Year of his Reign; for his Sons being aided by the *Scotch King* and the Two eminent Earls of *Chester* and *Lincoln*; the Cause of taking up Arms against their Father was, because he had imprison'd his Queen *Eleanor*, their Mother, and kept the fair *Rosamond* as a Concubine, quite abandoning the Bed and Company of his lawful Wife.

The Sons
Were a-
gainst the
Father.

Thus far I have borrow'd of our *English Annals*, the better to illustrate our succeeding History now in Hand.

In these Civil and Domestick Tumults, whilst the whole Land was in an Uproar, the Father against the Son, and the Son oppos'd against the Father, the whole Land so bewildred in the following and abetting of these Two several Factions, was disjoin'd; not only Peer against Peer, and County against County; but, as in all such unnatural and intestine Wars it happens, so in this it fell out that the Nephews oppos'd the Uncles, Brother the Brother, and the Son the Father; the one supporting the Quarrel
of

Pindar of the Town of Wakefield.

5

of the Father, the other animating the Faction of the rebellious Children, as their Fancies and Affections diversly led them. Amongst those that abetted the Insurrection of the Princes was one *Geoffrey Green*, a rich and wealthy Farmer of the Town of *Wakefield*, who both with his Purse and Person assisted them in all their Designs. These Wars (as *Reinolph* witnesseth) lasted for the Space of Two whole Years, to the great Disturbance of the Realm, at the End of which Season the King had the better; for the Army of the Princes was dispers'd, and the King pursuing his Victory, besieged the Two Earls of *Chester* and *Lincoln*, with other Great Men, in *Amwich* Castle, and in a short Space surpriz'd both it and them. These being thus taken, and the Princes his Sons fled, the King having quieted and pacified all the Tumults within the Realm, had now Leisure to make Enquiry after all such of his Subjects, as, quite against their Oath and Allegiance, had taken up rebellious Arms against him. In the List of those Names was found this *Geoffrey Green*, whose Life being pardon'd by the King's gracious Clemency, yet, by a strict Command from his Highness, directed to the Commissioners, all his Goods and Lands were seiz'd on as foresalt and confiscate to the Crown; the Grief whereof made such a deep Impression on him, that he survived not full

Geoffrey A Green, the Father of George.

Two

The History of George A. Green,

Two Months after, leaving behind him one only Son, about the Age of Nine Years, Heir only to his Father's Misfortunes; for he had neither House of his own to cover him, nor Farm, nor Cattle, nor Goods by which to subsist.

George
A. Green.

His Name was *George*, and that very *A. Green* of whom our present Discourse is form'd. And here I must give you to understand, that he was not (as some vainly have held) a Foundling, that is, a forsaken Infant, cast out by his unnatural Parents, and taken up in his Swaddling-Cloaths; and that those charitable People that first lighted on him, very much doubting of his Baptism, caused him to be Christned, whence the Name of *George* was given him, and surnam'd of *Green*, of the Town which is called *Wakefield*, on a *Green*, and so brought up and educated by the common Charity. Neither was he *Filius Populi*, a Bastard, as some have ignominiously suggested, deligning thereby to sully his Worth by the Infamy of his Birth; but he was the legitimate Issue of an honest and substantial Farmer of good Means and Ability, and of an unblemish'd Reputation, well thought of by his Neighbours, respectfully spoken of by the Country, a Man free from Blemish or unjust Taxation, until either over-soon reduced to embrace Innovation, or over-much inclin-

His Birth
and Pa-
rentage.

clining

ing to the immature Succession, he fell
the fore-sam'd Disaster.

As I have clear'd his Birth from Bas-
dy, so my Design is to free his Bring-
ing-up.
from Calumny; for, according to the
ability of his Father, he was train'd up
the School of Wakefield to read and
write; for in those Days few Farmers
aim'd at any higher Learning. Preg-
nant he was, and of a good Capacity, but
especially excelling in Strength those that
exceeded him in Years. He in all Exer-
cises of the Body, especially when any
Trial was to be made by Blows and Buf-
fets, had always the Mastery, insomuch,
that his fellow Scholars gave him the Name
of Captain of the School. His Means now
failing, by reason of his Father's Poverty
and untimely Decease, his Master began to
carry a more hard and severe Hand over
him than before; and because he found
him to be as Friendless as Fatherless, be-
gan too much to insult on his Poverty, by
chastening and beating him on the least,
or, perhaps, no Occasion; all which his
great Spirit (tho' yet a Child) being not
able to endure he purpos'd with himself,
upon the next fit Occasion, to put some
pretty Revenge or other upon his Master,
and so for ever after to quit the School.
Opportunity being after presented to his
Wishes, it happen'd, that his Master for
some

His Bring-
ing-up.

George
A Green
Captain
of the
School.

8 The HISTORY of George A Green,

some slight Cause was wroth, calling him *Cocain*, and bid him prepare himself for the Lash, for he must be whipp'd without all Peradventures. *George*, at this terrible Summons, perceiving his Master's Threatnings, and the Rod menacing, he falls down on his Knees with *Quaso Præceptor* (for he had so much *Latin*) in his Mouth, to beg Pardon, as loth upon so sudden a Condemnation, to go to Execution; but after many Threats on the one Side, and many Entreaties on the other, and none present that durst interpose themselves to mediate betwixt them, *George* perceiving his Master to be inexorable, and neither to be moved with Prayers nor Tears, and remembering himself of his former Determination, whilst the Pedagogue was calling out one to horse him, *George* suddenly thrust his Head betwixt his Master's Legs, and holding them fast, and heaving with all his Strength, he found he could move his Heels above his own Head; so with a sudden Heave he cast him off from his Shoulders with such a tumbling Quait, as we call a Back Somers-et, and left him (not much considering whether his Head or Neck came first to the Ground) lying flat upon his Back, and half dead, in the midst of the School, which then stood open, and out of which he ran, with an Intent and Vow to himself never to come within that Place after.

How
George
was re-
venged
upon his
School-
Master.



George
breaks up
School.

ter. Thus *George* in the Marring of a Scholar had almost spoil'd a School-Master ; for the poor Man, now not so cholerick as before, from Threatning, began to entreat his Scholars for Help to get him upon his Legs again, and employ'd others to run home, to get him some *Aqua Vita*, and others to lead him to his Seat, sometimes complaining of a Pain in his Head, then of a Creek in his Neck, then of his Back, and at other Times of his Bones ; but his Scholar *George* was gone, and having made so bold with his Legs, purpos'd never more to come within his Fingers. This Accident, tho' it distast'd some, yet it pleas'd others, especially such as were indulgent over their Children, to whom this Pedant had been too harsh and tyrannous ; but gave Occasion to all to speak *George's* Strength and Boldness, who being so young, durst adventure to cope with this Tyrant, whose very Looks made all the rest of his School-fellows quake and tremble. Many other such Masteries he proved with such as equall'd him in Years, and many with those that had out-gone him in Time ; but in all his Exercises he still came off with the best Success. He was naturally of so honest a Temper, and so gentle a Behaviour, that he rather attracted Love and Amity, than Emulation or Enemies. But I have hitherto spoken of

His Dis-
position.

of him as a Child; I must now entreat you to imagine so many Years past over his Head, till he was grown full Man, that his Understanding was of better Capacity, and his Body of more able Validity, the first to apprehend, the other to undertake. These Things duly consider'd here, I propose to conclude the First Partition of this Treatise, and prepare my self to go on with the Second.

CHAP. II.

How George A Green was perswaded by a Friend of his to go to an Astronomer, or Fortune-Teller, to cast his Nativity.

GEORGE now growing to Twenty Years of Age, and in Regard both of his Strength and Stature, perswading himself he might write full Man, began to consider what Course of Life he had best to take; and in this Meditation meeting with a Friend of his, and of his long Acquaintance, much familiar Discourse was interchanged betwixt them: At length they fell upon the former Argument. To the Profession of a Soldier he had a very great

George designs to fix his Course of Life

great Inclination, but he was frustrated in that; for there was no Employment for such Persons, because there was a general Peace and a Cessation of Civil Arms throughout the Kingdom. A Serving-Man he did not much affect, because he held it too servile a Life; and besides, he remembered himself of the Two *English* Proverbs, *That Service was no Heritage*; and again, *That an old Serving-Man made a young Beggar*. He was in no Hopes to prove a Scholar, because (as you have heard before) he had formerly too early broke up School. A Trade he did not affect, because he could not endure to be imprison'd Seven Years in a Shop to cry, *What do you lack?* Much Conference to the former Purpose past betwixt them; at length his Friend told him, That some Twelve Miles distant from thence, at *Hallifax*, lived a South-Sayer, or Fortune-Teller, one that cast Figures, and could predict from Mens Nativities what should happen to them: And so he wished him to be advised by him, and accordingly as he should calculate of his Birth, so to frame the Course of his Life. His Friend so far prevail'd with him, that they purposed to undertake this Journey; and the rather *George* was perswaded to the Motion, because he had heard from the Mouths of others, that this Man was a great Artist, and

A Cunning Man.

and got much Money by his Practice. The Time was appointed, and at that Time they went; but coming somewhat late into the Town, they thought it not best to trouble the Artift that Night, but rather to make Proof of him early in the Morning fresh and fasting. Merrily they fupp'd together, with some good Fellows of their Acquaintance, to whom they conceal'd the principal Cause of their Coming to the Town; but got up betimes, and understanding then, that Ten Groats was the ordinary Price due to the Cunning Man, George had the Fee in his Hand ready for his Counsel; and being directed to his House, it fortun'd thus: Just at the same Time he had almost open'd the Doot, he found, that some slovenly Fellow or other had laid a beastly and stinking Load upon the Threshold; at which Sight the Cunning Man seem'd to be out of Patience, and, amongst other Language utter'd in his great Fury as followeth, and spoke to this Effect; *Well (quoth he) if I could but imagine, or find out by any Enquiry what Rascal hath put his nasty Breech upon me, I would be so revenged on him to make him an Example how to use any Neighbour's Door in that beastly Manner hereafter.* This was no sooner spoke, but he clapp'd too the Door, and in he went; when, saith his Friend, *Come, George, let's follow in close,*
far

for 'tis Ten to One but we shall find him private. But he having another Apprehension newly come into his Head, told his Friend He should excuse him, for he was sorry he taken so much Pains to so little Purpose and though he had made him such a Fool lose so much Labour, yet he had so much left him as to keep his Money. His Friend demanding of him the Reason why utter'd such Speech; George reply'd, *cause I purpose to be as cunning as the Cunning Man, so as not to part with my Money nothing; for (saith he) shall I ever believe he can resolve me of Things to come, that cannot inform himself of a Thing lately past; that he can satisfy me in the future Course of my Life and Fortune, that cannot give himself Satisfaction who hath this Morning pluck'd the Sloven upon his Threshold? No, said George, let him keep his Art unto his own Use, and I will reserve my Money for my own Spending: And so, without any further Questions, he alter'd his Course back to Wakefield, where he arriv'd somewhat wiser than he went thither; but his Friend as arrant a Fool as he was, got first the ther.*

Kept the
Cunning
Man's Fee.

C H A P. III.

George A Green was chosen Pin-
dar of the Town of Wakefield: How
he carried himself in the Place; and
of some other Accidents that happen'd
unto him.

It happen'd, that soon after this his
Journey to *Hallifax*, that the *Pin-
dar* of the Town of *Wakefield* died, and though
the Place was of no great Reputation or
Credit, yet it was of some Profit; and
therefore divers of the Town, and others
of the Neighbouring Villages made Suite
for it; but *George*, being well belov'd,
partly for his Father's Sake, but chiefly
for his own Temper and genteel Carriage,
(being a Town-born Child, and destitute
both of Means and Employment) the most
Voices went, that though he made no
suit for it, either by his own Mouth, or
the Mediation of Friends, that it should
be mention'd unto him, if he would think
it to accept of so poor a Favour, which
proceeded from their general Love, till a
better Fortune; and so was told, He
should be possess'd of it, notwithstanding
all Competitors. *George* being much pleased
with

The *Pin-
darship* of
Wakefield
offer'd
him,

with such voluntary Love, and being naturally in himself a Hater of all Ingratitude, besides that he was without a Calling, and had no Dependance on any Man, he revolved within himself, that it was much better, and more commendable, to enter and undertake a mean Profession, than none at all, and therefore he return'd the Townsmen a thankful Answer of Acceptance, modestly excusing his own Demerit; but with this Condition, That in regard he understood there were many Suiters for the Place that seem'd more able and expert than himself, and withal, that it was an Office that requir'd a strong and sufficient Man, that must undergo many Enterprizes without being overtopt and baffled. He, for his own Part, desired rather that Merit might carry it than Favour; and therefore his Request was, That all such as had interest-ed themselves in the Suit might appear next Holiday, after Even-Song, upon the Green of the Town, to have a Bout or two at Quarter-Staff, which was a Weapon most in Use in those Days; and, to take off all Pretence for his being hated or envied in it. The Motion was so necessary and just, that it could be denied by none, but accepted of all, and he was much commended for proposing it, and the rather, because thereby the Townsmen were acquitted from seeming inclin'd more to
one

Pindar of the Town of Wakefield.

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one Party than another. Upon this the Day was appointed, and Summons sent speedily, not only to the Neighbouring Villages, but proclaim'd in all the Market-Towns in the County (without Exception) That whosoever would make their Personal Appearance, as well Strangers as others, should not only have fair Admittance, but he that could maintain his Claim by *Staff* and *Law*, should not only have their general Voice, but have the Possession of the *Pindarship* during his Life, &c. When the Time came, a great Confluence of People appear'd; for the Country came in from all Parts and Corners, and many Champions entred within the Lists. Many a stout Tinker in the Country was seen with his long Staff upon his Neck (for Lances belong'd only to Horsemen) and not one but would venture his Budget in the Quarrels. *George* was their Champion and Challenger; the rest were Defendants. The Prize proposed for the Conqueror was the *Pindarship*. Neither Bakers nor Butchers were exempted; nay, even Fencers were not excluded, for the Challenge was general. Many that made no Pretensions to the Place, came in for their Renown, and to shew their Valour. The Champion stands forth, a Defendant appears, the Charge is given, not by Trumpets, but Bag-pipes.)

His Challenge to all Competitors.

Divers
Persons
combat
with
George.

The HISTORY of George A Green,

as the Seers-Men go to War. As one was struck down, another started up in his Place. I can compare *George* in this War most properly to *Hercules* fighting with *Hydra*; for as one is vanquished, there appears in his Place Two or Three. Fewer Staves have been broken at a Tilt on a Coronation-Day, than Quarter-Staves at this Trial of Strength. Twenty of their Heads which stood right upon their Shoulders, in less than an Hour's Space stoop'd lower than their Knees; yet in him there was neither seen Weakness nor Weariness, but he appear'd as fresh as when he first began the Encounter. Others, who came with a Resolution to make Proof of their Valour, learn'd by other Mens Harms how to beware, and seeing so many able and stout Fellows foil'd, forbore to come into the Lists; for, seeing crack'd Crowns pass so currant, they thought it the safest Way to sleep in a whole Skin. In short, he staid there so long to oppose, that none appear'd to resist: So that the Place (with the common Consent of the whole Country) was conferr'd on him, which, they all acknowledged, came to him not by Favour, but his Merit and pure Desert; and as he attracted the Hearts of all Men, so questionless his Valour being accompany'd with his fair and genteel Carriage, (as before hinted) interest'd him in the

Bo-



20. *The HISTORY of George A Green,*

General Bosoms of many Women, especially one
 Love. fair Damosel, whose Name was *Beatrice*,
Beatrice, the only Daughter and Heir of a rich
 Daughter Justice of the Peace, whose Name was
 of Justice Grymes, a Man of a fair Revenue, and of
 Grymes: no mean Reputation in the Country;
 who being the prime Beauty in all those
 Northern Parts, was soon espied by *George*,
 at such *Interims* of Breathing, wherein
 having foil'd one Champion, he cast his
 Eyes about till he perceiv'd another to
 appear before him. She perceiving him
 at all Opportunities to cast a loving
 Look at her, fail'd not to meet his Eyes
 with the like Interview of amorous
 Glances: And, according to the Proverb,
Who ever lov'd, that lov'd not at first Sight?
 So it may be said of *George* and *Bea-*
trice; for ever after that Time there was
 such an Impression of cordial and entire
 Love betwixt them, as never could be
 raz'd out by any Prevention or Disaster
 whatsoever, as shall further appear in the
 Sequel. But here we shall leave our new
 made *Pindar*, with a loud Applause of
 all the lusty Lads of the Town and Coun-
 try, carry'd home to his Lodgings; and
 his Sweet-Heart attended by the Coun-
 try Maidens (according to her Degree)
 unto her Father's House, some Two
 Miles off, who had rather (would Mode-
 sty have permitted her) have made a
 short-

shorter Journey of it, and born him Company that Night in the Town, as he would likewise have been willing to have made a longer Journey, and have usher'd her home ; but neither of these could have their Desire with any Convenience. Part they must, and part they did, meeting as near in their Thoughts, as they were divided far in their Bodies, where I must now likewise take Leave of them for a little Time, to inform you what happen'd in the mean time in the Nation.

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

Of a great Insurrection in the Kingdoms, made by the Earl of Kendall, and his Accomplices, by Reason of a vain Prophecy: And how George A Green demeaned himself towards the Rebels, &c.

RICHARD the First, Son of *Henry* the Second, after his Father's Decease, began his Reign in the Month of *July*, in the Year of Grace, One Thousand One Hundred Fourscore and Nine, who having established and settled *Normandy*, and ordered his Affairs in *England*, after he had released his Mother *Eleanor* from Prison, whom the King his Father had kept long in Durance, by reason that she was the Death of his best beloved *Rosamond*; he likewise conferred many Honours on his younger Brother *John*, as giving him the Provinces of *Nottingham*, *Devonshire* and *Cornwall*, and creating him Earl of *Lancaster*, and moreover had marry'd him to the Earl of *Gloucester's* sole Daughter, by which that Earldom came shortly into his Hands. I say, *Richard* having settled his

Prince
John.

his Affairs, he prepar'd for a Voyage to the *Holy Land*, in Conjunction with *Philip the Second*, then King of *France*. During his Absence he constituted the Bishop of *Ely*, then Chancellor of *England*, Vicegerent of the Kingdom. This Bishop being on the one Side covetous, and by many unjust Impositions oppressing the Nation, and the King's Brother ambitious on the other, as presuming much upon his Royal Birth, and his great Possessions, some Persons fomented great Factions and Combinations against the Tyrannizing Prelate; so that all Things grew out of Frame and Order, and great Distractions ensued; nay, a Third Ulcer, worse than the former, broke into open Rebellion, namely, an Insurrection was raised by the Earl of *Kendal*, with divers of his Adherents, as, the Lord *Bottle*, Sir *Gilbert Armistrong*, and others. These having gather'd an Army of some Twenty Thousand Malecontents, made publick Proclamation, That they came into the Field for no other Cause, but to purchase their Country-mens Liberty, and to free them from the great and insufferable Oppression which they then liv'd under, by the Prince and Prelate. This drew to the Earl many Followers for the present, so that he seem'd to have got together a very potent Army. But the

Bishop of
Ely.

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the main Reason of this Rebellion was, that when the Earl was but a Child, a Wizzard had prophes'y'd of him, *That Richard and he should meet in London, and the King should there visit his Bonnet unto him*: And this Prediction of the South-Sayer prov'd afterwards to be true, but not as he vainly had expounded it. The Earl having led his Army into the North, struck a great Terror into all those honest Subjects, that tender'd their Allegiance to their absent King and Sovereign, and wish'd well to the Good of the Commonwealth, and the Safety of the Kingdom; yet many were forced through Fear to supply his Men with necessary Provisions, lest otherwise they should have made Spoil and Havock of all they had. Now, the Earl being for some time destitute of many Things that are useful and commodious for an Army, and encamping some Five Miles from the Town of *Wakefield*, the Three Confederates drew a Commission, and having sign'd it with their own Seals sent it by one *Manner*, a Servant of the Earl's, to the Bailiff and Towns-men of *Wakefield*, requiring seemingly, by way of Intreaty, to send unto his Host such a Quantity of Provision, of Corn and Cattle, with other Necessaries (of which he was then in great Want, and withal, such a Sum of Money

Pindar of the Town of Wakefield.

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Money as he demanded for the Payment of so many Soldiers, to which this *Manner*ing was to perswade them by all fair Means possible: But, if they should deny his Request, he was to threaten them with Fire and Sword, with all the Violence that could be suggested to them. The News of this Commission coming to their Knowledge, the Bailiff sent abroad to the Neighbouring Justices, as, to Mr. Grymes, and others; so that he and his Brethren appointed to give them a Meeting in the Town-House, where many of the Commons were to be present; and, amongst others, *George A Green* purposed to be there, to hear what would become of the Business. The Summons being made, the Assembly met, and the Messenger appear'd, show'd his Warrant, and, according to his Orders, told them what great Conveniencies would grow in supplying the Army, and withal entreated from the Lords their Love and Favour. The Bailiff and the Justices were loth, it being contrary to their Allegiance, to grant their Request; yet they were fearful withal peremptorily to deny it, and stood wavering long and debating amongst themselves what they had best do for their own Safeties; which *Manner*ing seeing, without doing any Reverence at all unto the Bench, he began to alter his

Consultation how to answer the Commission.

E

Phrases,

Phrases, and changed the Copy of his Countenance, first taunting and deriding their faint-hearted Cowardize, and afterward threatening them, that if they gave not present Satisfaction to his Demand, the Army would instantly remove, make Havock and Spoil of their Goods and Chattels, ravish their Daughters, and deflower their Wives before their Faces, and make a Boufire of the Town, to the Terrifying of others, whose Insolence durst oppose the Earl his Master's Commission. At this haughty and insufferable Menaces, whilst the Bench sate quaking, *George* presseth forward in the Face of the Court, and desireth, by the Favour of the Bench, to have the Liberty, according to his plain and weak Understanding, to give the Messenger an Answer, which being granted him, he boldly stept up to him, and demanded his Name, who made him Answer, That his Name was *Mannering*. *Mannering* (saith he;) *that Name was ill bestow'd on one who can so far forget all Manners, as to stand cover'd before a Bench, upon which the Majesty of his Sovereign was represented: Which Manners* (saith he) *since thou wantest, I will teach thee:* And withal, first snatching his Bonnet from his Head, trod upon it, then spurn'd it before him. At which the other, being intraged, ask'd him, *How*
he

George desireth to answer Mannering.

he durst to offer that Violence to one, who brought so strong a Commission? Your Commission (saith George) I cry your Mercy, Sir: And withal, desired the Favour of the Bench, that he might have the Liberty to peruse it, which being granted, I marry (saith he, having read it) I cannot chuse but submit my self to this Authority; and making an Offer, as if he meant to kiss it, tore it in Pieces. Mannering seeing this, began to stamp, stare and swear; but George taking him fast by the Collar, so shook him, as if he had purposed to have made all his Bones loose in his Skin, and drawing his Dagger, and pointing it to his Bosom, told him, *He had devised Physick to purge his cholerick Blood; and gathering up the Three Seals, told him, It was these Three Pills which he must instantly take and swallow, and never more expect to return to his Master: Nor did he leave him, or take the Dagger from his Breast, till he had seen it down, and afterwards, when he had perceiv'd that they had almost choak'd him, he call'd for a Bottle of Ale, and said these Words: It shall never be said, that a Messenger shall be sent by such Great Persons to the Town of Wakefield, and that none would be so kind as to make him drink, therefore here (saith he) Mannering, is a Health to the Confusion of the Traitor thy Master, and all his rebellious*

George drinks
Confusion
to the
Rebels.

Army, and pledge it me without Evasion or Delay, or I vow by the Allegiance which I owe to my Prince and Sovereign, that thou hast drunk thy last already. Mannering, seeing there was no Remedy; and feeling the Wax still sticking in his Throat, drank it off Supernaculum; which the other seeing, Now (saith he) commend me to thy Master, and the rest, and tell them; One George A Green, no better Man than the Pindar of the Town of Wakefield, who tho' I have torn their Commission, yet I have sent them their Seals safe back again by their Servant. Whatsoever Mannering thought, little was he heard to speak, but went away muttering the Devil's Pater Noster, and so left them. Every Body commended the Resolution of George, and, by his sole Encouragement, purposed henceforward to oppose themselves against the Insurrection of the Rebels.

C H A P. V.

How George wrote a Letter to fair Beatrice, and of the Success thereof: How it was deliver'd to her; With other Accidents pertinent to the History.

THE News of this late Exploit done Beatrice by the Pindar was related at Home taken by Justice Grymes to Beatrice, his fair with Daughter, which he flourish'd over with George. such an extraordinary Commendation of his Spirit and Valour, that it added fresh Flames to that Fire, which was already kindled in her Breast; neither could any thing delight her more, than to hear him commended much, and praised often; and nothing troubled her so much, as that Modesty would not suffer her to lay hold of an Opportunity to acquaint him with her Affection. George's George, on the contrary, Love was as much perplex'd with the Consi- Conflict. deration of the Difference of their Births and Estates: She an Esquire's Daughter, and he but the Son of a Yeoman: Her Father a Justice of the Peace, his a Farmer: She the Heir to a fair Estate, and he born to so mean a Fortune: She so rich, and he poor. These Discouragements

ragements drove him into so deep a Melancholy, that nothing could cheer or comfort him: But then, when he again consider'd with himself, That all vertuous Lovers still respected the Person more than Place, and still preferr'd the Man above his Means; and moreover, That he that fear'd not the Face of a Man, should not be daunted at the Frowns of a Woman; That faint Heart never compass'd fair Lady; and, That all Contracts were first confirm'd in Heaven before they could be concluded upon Earth. Many of these Conceptions, I say, continuing, he begins to devise by what means he might acquaint her with his Affection; and knowing it was a commendable Ambition, rather to aim high than look low, and to raise his Fortune than depress them, he thought to make Proof, proposing to himself, that the worst that could befall him could not be Death, but the most a Denial; and having read, That it is a kind of Ingratitude for one to be angry or incensed against any one for loving and honouring them, he therefore took Pen in Hand (as one loth to offend) and thought cautiously rather to express his own Passions, than presumptuously to urge or perswade her Affections (especially upon no Acquaintance) and being a pretty Poet, such as those Times afforded, he wrote this Fancy.

What

What art thou, Beauty, not commended?

Or what is State, if not attended?

Or Gold in Ground,

If sought not found?

What's Favour in a Prince offended?

All like Smoak and Bubbles prove;

And so it happens to my Love.

What are Pleasures, if untry'd?

Or what great Suits, if deny'd?

Or what's to thee,

That cannot see?

Phœbus in his Height of Pride,

Fair may be, and yet we do annoy

That Hope, yet helpless to enjoy.

What Wealth, unless we may possess it?

Or Vertue, if none dare profess it?

Even so it fares

With these my Cares.

Then what my Mistress, who can guess it?

Save you that only know it:

I have a Heart, but dare not owe it.

In discovering his Meaning thus overtly, he was afraid lest it might, perhaps, breed some Distaste, yet it could not beget any Anger; besides, if it came in

Question, he might thus excuse it: *Cats may look upon Kings. The Air is free for all Men to breath in: And, No Man is barr'd the Privilege to gaze upon the Sun, because it shines freely upon all Things.* This might expresse he lov'd her, which she could bar no Man from doing, and yet never be any Injury unto her, and therefore he could incur no just Taxation. Being animated with these Hopes, he subscrib'd his Name, seal'd it, and gave it to his Boy, giving him a great Charge in the Delivery, and to watch some Opportunity, when neither suspicious, Ears or Eyes were about her, to shelter it in her private Walk, or Way, where she might be sure to find it, and take it up. The Boy proved an apt Scholar, and did as his Master had tutor'd him: So good Success he had, that the Letter came safely to her Hands. Upon her perusing it over and over, I may very well say, that never came Tidings unto her of more Comfort, to her (before) sad and discontented Heart. And now all her Study and Care was how to return him a pleasing and sudden Answer; for well she consider'd, that in these Affairs there was no Benefit in appearing coy, or delaying of Time, in regard she had many Suiters propos'd unto her by her Father, of equal Means and Fortunes, who were daily im-

importunate for Answer, and hourly solicited her by Letters, and to all which she gave fair Answers and seeming Entertainment, but with a settled and constant Resolution to run her Fortune with her best belov'd George, and in this Resolution she retired her self into her Chamber, and having shut the Door, took Pen, Ink and Paper, and writ to him as followeth.

*Prove but as constant as th'art bold,
Thy Suit shall never be controul'd.
I am not to be bought or sold
For Wealth or Treasure.*

Beatrice's
Answer.

*Let Suiters fret, and Fathers rage,
Then keep me in an Iron Cage;
Yet I my self to thee engage;
I'll use my Pleasure.*

*Then be no longer discontent:
I write no more than what is meant.
With this my Hand my Heart is sent.
Be't thine Endeavour,*

*To lay some Plot how we may meet,
And lovingly each other greet
With amorous Words and Kisses sweet.
Thine for ever.*

To this she subscrib'd her Name, not standing to examine it, whether any thing had pass'd her Hand rashly or unadvisedly : So great was her Love, and so much her Fear, either of Discovery or Prevention. She folded it up, and wore it in her Bosom, but destitute of any safe Means how it should be privately convey'd without any Suspicion into his Hands. In this Distraction, walking one Morning at some Distance from her Father's House, she espied *William*, the *Pindar's* Boy, not far from the Gate, whom she presently knew to be the same who had dropp'd the first Letter, and imagin'd, that his Lingerings there was to find, if he could learn what Success his Master's Suit had : So that perceiving the Coast clear, and that no Eyes were fix'd upon her, she let fall her Letter in the Boy's Sight, and, as if she had lost it by Chance, retired herself towards the House without any Notice thereof, or more speaking ; yet warily casting her Eye on the one Side, to see whether he took it up or no. The Lad, as crafty as she was cunning, took it up, and finding by the Superscription, that it was not his Master's Hand, was glad within himself, as hoping he should now be the Messenger of good News and Tidings to his Master, he presently runs Home with it : But never was Man more extacy'd than
George,

George, when he had open'd the Letter and read it; it which profound Contemplation I must leave him to speak of the Rebels, who hearing of the Fame of fair *Beatrice's* Beauty, the sole clear and resplendent Star of the North, the Earl, the Lord *Bonville* and Sir *Gilbert*, commanding then the Country, had left the Charge of the Army to such as they best trusted, and invited themselves to the House of Justice *Grymes*, who, tho' much against his Will, was forced to give them a seeming Welcome, and Liberty to court his Daughter: But she being constant in her former Resolution, put them off with slight Answers, resolving within herself to humour all, but to give Satisfaction unto none of them. Whilst they were thus revelling, *Mannering*, having miss'd them in the Army, brought to them that displeasing Answer from the Town of *Wakefield*, relating to them every particular Circumstance, and told how, not only he, but even they themselves were baffled by a Peasant, one *George A Green*, who had not only torn their Commission, but made him swallow their Seals. 'Tis no Wonder they were much incensed at this Affront, in regard it proceeded from a Man of such low Condition, neither wanted they any thing in murmuring, by reason of his former Disgrace, to incite them to Revenge.

The Earl
courts
Beatrice.

venge. That Night they spent in Feasting, and courting fair *Beatrice*, the Earl promising to make her a Countess at least: But on the Morrow they took their Leave of Mr. *Grymes* and his fair Daughter, and coming to the Army, they began to lay their Heads together to consult how to take the *Pindar*, in whose only Valour (by *Mannerings* Report) the whole Might and Strength of the Town consisted. Whilst these Things were thus debating, Sir *William Musgrave*, a grave old Knight, associated with his Son *Cuddy Musgrave*, a very valiant and successful Gentleman, had raised a small Power in the absent King's Behalf, who, tho' fewer in Number, waited an Opportunity, upon the least Advantage, to fall upon the Rebels; but they were so strongly encamp'd, that he could not yet do it without great Hazard to his Person and People; in which Distraction I must leave him for a while, to speak of other Adventures pertinent to the Story.

CHAP.

C H A P. VI.

*How George A Green surpriz'd a Spy,
who was sent by the Rebels to betray
Sandon Castle, of which Sir William
Musgrave and his Son Cuddy had
the Keeping; and of sundry other Pas-
sages.*

BEfore what happen'd in Wakefield be-
twixt George and Mannering, the Earl
of Kendal had hired a Spy, and given him
good Store of Money in his Purse, to make
Tryal if either by Favour or Reward he
could corrupt any Man to betray Sandon
Castle to him, in which the Musgraves
lay with a very small Garrison, and had
fortified it against any Assault which could
be made by the Rebels. This Fellow
strowling abroad, chanced to meet with
George, whom he knew not, or ever had
seen before, and entring into Discourse,
George perceiving that he was of the Ba-
ron's Faction, sooth'd him up with smooth
Language, and began to commend the En-
terprize, as though it had a Pretence of
Good to the Kingdom and Liberty of the
Commonwealth, and screw'd himself first
so



so far into the other's Bosom, as that he plainly told him what his Purpose was, and withal shew'd him Gold very plentiful, which, he said, should be his that that could devise any Plot to bring this Stratagem to pass. The Pindar, glad of this Occasion, tells him, *He would undertake for such a Sum to bring him safe into the Castle, in the Dead of Night, that he might at his Pleasure set open the Gates, and let in as many of his Confederates as he pleased.* George presently lays the Plot, which was agreed to by the other, and thus it was:

I am very well known to all that are in the Castle- (says he) and am often sent unto them, to carry them Provisions. Now I would wish you to enter it in the Close of the Evening. I will take you on my Back, (as if you were a Burthen of Corn, or some other Commodity, such as I usually bring thither) and put you within some Corner of the Castle that is least suspected: Upon which, in the Dead of Night, when you think all Things very secure, you may get out, and so opening the Gates, let all your Friends and Accomplices in. This was deliver'd with so sober and serious a Countenance, that the Sack was instantly provided, and he put into it; which was no sooner done, but George lifts it up upon his Shoulders, and nimbly carries Sir Troth in Ken of the Castle, when taking a Slering-Cord
out

George's
Plot to
take the
Spy.

40 *The HISTORY of George A Green,*
out of his Pocket, with which he used to
lead Strays to the Pound, fastned it to the
Mouth of the Sack, and coming to the
Tree just before the Castle-Green, and
hoisting him more than twice his Height
from the Ground, fasten'd the Cord, and
leaving him betwixt Heaven and Earth
tottering in the Air, bids him Farewel,
and at his Parting left this Inscription
pinn'd upon his Breast.

*Whoever next shall pass this Way,
A little I entreat to stay;
And if he'll dain to look so high,
He'll see a most notorious Spy.
This Sack too I wou'd have you think,
More wholesome is to hang than drink;
Because in this a Plot was laid,
By which you all had been betray'd.
Use him according to your Skill,
Who sought this Night your Blood to spill,
If who did this you shall enquire,
'Twas George A Green did hang him here.*

Cuddy and *George* having done this, trudg'd as fast
his Father as he could towards the Town, to look
see him. to his Charge; he was scarce gone out of
Sight, when *Sir William Musgrave* and his
Son *Cuddy*, walking about to take the E-
vening Air, *Cuddy* by Chance casting his
Eye, espies this strange Wonder, and show-
ing it to his Father, they drew nearer
to

to be fatished of the Novelty, and having read the Bill upon his Breast, they might easily perceive, as the Proverb has it, *What Pig was in the Poke*, and what Commodity the Sack contain'd, when presently cutting him down with such Haste, that he had almost broke his Neck with the Fall, they open'd the Sack, and found the Traitor; upon which they sent him to the Castle, where they made him confess all the Purposes of the Rebels, and at the same time much commending *George A Green* for his witty Conceit, as also for his Truth and Fidelity to his Prince and Sovereign. But now, for Variety's Sake, I will break off this Discourse, tho' somewhat abruptly, and speak a Word or two of *Robin Hood*, his Maid *Mariana*, and his bold Yeoman, who at this Time kept *Revel Ront*, in the Forest of *Sheer-wood*, &c.



C H A P. VII.

Of Robin Hood, *Maid Mariana*, and the bold Teoman; And how envying the Fame of *George A Green*, and the Rumour of the Beauty of fair *Beatrice*, *Mariana* could not be in Quiet, till it could be tried whether Robin or *George* were the Valiantest, or she and *Beatrice* the Fairest.

MY Purpose is not to trouble the Reader with any tedious Discourse, by telling of you, how *Robin Hood* was first Earl of *Huntington*, and for his Vertue suppress'd and turn'd out of all his Possessions by the covetous Bishop before spoken of, and the Person whom the King at his Departure to prosecute the Wars, had made Governor of the Kingdom; nor how she that stiled her self *Maid Mariana*, was *Matilda*, Daughter to the Lord *Fitz-Walters*, and having discover'd the Royal Affections of Prince *John*, retired herself into the Forest of *Sheerwood*, for the true Love and Affection she bore unto her best-beloved *Robin*; which History would require a small Volume of it self, but I only pro-

pose to speak so much of them in brief, as is pertinent to the History now in Hand. I entreat you to take it into Remembrance, that *George A Green* for his Strength and Valour, and *Beatrice*, the Daughter of Justice *Grymes*, for her Beauty, were the most famous in all those Northern Parts: That *Robin* and his *Mariana*, before unparallel'd, were now scarce spoken of, inasmuch, that an ambitious Emulation was the Cause that *Robin* and *George*, *Mariana* and *Beatrice* afterwards grew into great Quarrel and Acquaintance, as shall be made more manifest by the Sequel. It was their Custom still, when he and his Yeoman went to the Chase, that they all in their Green, being arm'd with good Yew-Bows, and every one of them a Sheaf of Arrows hanging at their Girdles, came early in the Morning to the Place where he lay, to call him up, with a Song to this Purpose:

Yeoman's
Song.

*Now wend we together, my merry Men all,
Unto the green Wood Side-a,
And there to kill a Buck, or a Doe,
Let your Cunnings all be try'd-a.
No Man may compare with Robin Hood,
With Robin Hood's Slatbbatch and
(John-o,
The like was never, nor never shall be,
In case that they were gone-a.*

Then

*Then let us not linger away the Time,
But hie to the merry green Wood-a,
And there to strike down a Buck or a Doe,
For my Master Robin Hood-a:
For my Master Robin Hood-a.*

With this Musick of well tun'd Voices,
it was their Custom to salute him, and
after attend him to the Game. But it
happen'd, that having had for the Space of
Four or Five Days together very rainy
and tempestuous Weather, *Mariana* all
this time was in a deep and sudden Melan-
choly, the Cause whereof he could by no
means wrest from her, though he had la-
bour'd it by all fair Means and much
Entreaty; insomuch, that he began to be
a little jealous of her Love; as falling off
from him, and inclining to Prince John, *Mariana*
who never left off soliciting her by Mes-
sengers and Letters, with sundry Gifts *courted*
and Presents: But having had sufficient *by the*
Proof of her Faith and Constancy, he then *Prince.*
began again to blame and chide his Diffi-
dence and Mistrust, and attribute her Sad-
ness and Melancholy to the gloomy, unsea-
sonable and tempestuous Weather, which
might easily be the Cause of that her In-
disposition. To expel this (for nothing
could be more grievous unto him than to
behold her sad) he attiring one of his
Pages in the Habit of a Wood Nymph,
and

The HISTORY of George A Green,
and having provided a curious and costly
Mantle, wrought in divers Colours, he
by him presented it unto her as she was
sitting solitary, with great Reverence,
with this Song, a sweet and delicate Con-
fort of Musick being placed behind her
unseen, who with their soft Strains thus
began:

*Beauty's Rose and Vertue's Look,
Angel's Mind and Mortal's Book,
Both to Men and Angels dear.*

*Oh! thou Fairest on the Earth,
Heaven did smile in your first Birth,
And since the Days have been most clear.*

*Only poor St. Swithin now
Doth fear you blame his Cloudy Brow:
But that your Saint devoutly swears,
It is but a Tradition vain,
That his much Weeping causeth Rain:
For Saints in Heaven can shed no Tears.*

*But this he says, That to the Feast
Comes Iris, an unwelcome Guest,
In her moist Robe of Colours gay.
And when she comes, she ever stays
For the full Space of Forty Days,
And, more or less, rains every Day.*

But this good Saint, when once he knew
This Rain was like to fall on you,
(If Saints cou'd weep) he wept as much,
As when you did the Lady lead,
That did on burning Iron tread;
To Virgins his Respect is such.

He gently then bid Iris go
Unto th' Antipodes below:
But she for this more sullen grew.
When he saw this, with angry Look,
From her this Rainy Robe he took,
Which here he doth present to you.

It's fit with you it shou'd abide,
As Men's great Wonder, Vertue's Pride:
Yet if it rains still as before,
St. Swithin prays that you would guess,
That Iris doth more Robes possess,
And that you wou'd blame him no more.

The Song was no sooner ended, when
that Robin appear'd, who, in the stead of
friendly Thanks and courteous Salutation,
now drew these Words from her, 'I may Mariana's
'wonder, Sir, that you can be so stupid Speech.
'and gross to sooth up your self, or to
'flatter me, to call me the Pride of Na-
'ture and Wonder of Mankind, when
'both our Lustres are so suddenly ec-
'clipsed. Within these few Months, who
'so

48 *The History of George A Green,*

' so famous for Magnanimity and Valour
 ' as *Robin Hood*? And who more renown-
 ' ed for Chastity and Beauty, than his
 ' *Mariana*? who are now scarce thought
 ' on, much less spoken of at all. Are not
 ' all the Mouths of the Multitude only
 ' fill'd with the brave Deeds, valiant Acts
 ' and Exploits perform'd by *George A Green*,
 ' the famous *Pindar of Wakefield*; and of
 ' the refulgent Sun of the North, fair
 ' *Beatrice*, Daughter of old *Grymes* of the
 ' North, and both preferr'd before an Earl,
 ' and I the Daughter of an Earl; where-
 ' as the *Pindar* is but a Yeoman, and she
 ' the Child of a mean Gentleman; and
 ' yet these Two very far exceed us in
 ' the publick Voice of the Kingdom. Now,
 ' can you blame me to be struck into this
 ' deep Melancholy, hearing of them such
 ' loud Acclamations Abroad, and of our
 ' selves scarce any Rumour or Report at
 ' all? When she had thus freely utter'd
 her Thoughts, *Robin*, on his part, com-
 mended her noble Emulation, and de-
 manded of her what in this case was fit-
 test to be done. To whom she reply'd,
 That as Two Suns could not shine in
 one Element, neither could Two unpa-
 rall'd Beauties be refulgent in one Coun-
 try, without contending which should have
 the Priority: Then farther counsell'd
 him, That for both their Honours, they
 should

should travel as far as *Wakefield*, where he should try Masteries with *George* which was the better Man, and she to show her self unto *Beatrice*, upon which true Judgment might pass which was the fairest Woman. *Robin*, than whom a more undaunted and bolder Spirit was not known to breath in that Age, was not a little pleased to hear, that that was the only Cause of her Discontent, when taking her by the Hand, and raising her from the Ground, he bad her be of good Chear; for before that Month was expired she should be Lady of her Wishes; and having seal'd this with a sweet Kiss, he gave instantly Order for his Journey; but privately, lest being taken from his Guard of Archers (he being out-law'd) it might prove some Danger to his Person. He therefore selected out of the rest only Three of the stoutest amongst his Crew, namely, *Sarkbath*, *Little John*, and the Fryar, for his Attendants, and these were to have the Charge of his fair *Marina* in the Journey, in pursuing which I leave them for the present, the Success whereof you shall have more at large hereafter.

Robin prepares for his Journey.

C H A P. VIII.

How the Earl of Kendal and the Lord Bonville laid an Ambush to betray George A Green, and the Success thereof: How he prevented the Earl's Policy, and what happen'd thereupon.

AS the Name of George grew greater and greater, so the Displeasure of the Rebels was encreased against him more and more, especially for those Two merry Affronts, the one against *Mannering*, the other against their Spy, of whose Surprizal they had lately got Intelligence, and therefore thought to defer their Revenge no longer: Wherefore they having placed a strong Ambush, thought they had him fast; for the Earl, *Bonville* and *Mannering*, thinking to lay a Bait for him, which he could not chuse but be nibbling at, being well mounted, broke down a strong Fence, and put in their Horses to feed in the Corn. George, whose careful Eye was ever watchful over his Business, soon espied them, and call'd his Boy, commanding him to drive them to the Pound. These disguised Persons ask'd him

him what he meant to do with their Horses? Whether he would steal them before their Faces? and began to offer the Lad Violence; which *George* perceiving, and as yet not knowing them, said, 'It was base and discourteous in Gentlemen, such as they seem'd to be, to do an Injury in that Nature, and then to maintain it by being obstinate in it. To which the Earl answer'd again, 'That these belong'd to him, and were put in to the Corn to feed in Despight of him, or who should say nay. The *Pindar* seeing no more to appear, thought that their great Words should not so carry it away, and told them in plain Terms what a Forfeit they had made, and what Amends they should make, or else as they rode on Horse-back thither, they should go on Foot Home; and then he swore (by no Be-Garrs,) but by the Life of good King *Richard*, he would see it perform'd. The Earl hearing him name the King, told him, 'That he was but a base Groom and Peasant, and had affronted one, that e're long would be King *Richard's* Better. The Word was no sooner from his Lips, but *George*, who could not endure such Indignity breath'd against his Sovereign, struck him with his Staff a sound Blow betwixt his Neck and Shoulders, telling him, 'That he ly'd

' like a Traitor, and he would make it
 ' good upon his Carcass. At which *Man-*
nering stepping forth, told him, ' That
 ' he was a Villain, and had struck an
 ' Earl; who answer'd him with a Word
 and a Blow, ' That as before he had un-
 ' seal'd his Commission, so now he would
 ' sign him a Pass-port into another World.
 and withal laid him at his Foot. The
 Lord *Bonville* seeing this, gave the Watch-
 Word to the Men in Ambush, which were
 about some Forty in Number, who encom-
 pass'd him round; which *George* seeing, he
 began to apprehend, that whenever Force
 was near the Foil, the surest Recourse
 was to Policy, and thereupon craved a
 Parley, which was obtain'd, and *George*
 began as followeth: ' I wonder, Sir, that
 ' you, being a Nobleman, an Earl, and,
 ' which is more, the General of so puis-
 ' sant an Army, will be so injurious to
 ' your Power, as to assault and circum-
 ' vent a poor single Man, and of no Re-
 ' nown and Reputation, with such une-
 ' qual Odds. What have I done more to
 ' your Person abusing my King, than you
 ' would have expected from your Peasant
 ' *Mannering*, if he had heard your Ho-
 ' nour reviled and abused? If you expect
 ' from him the Duty of a Peasant, will
 ' you deny me, or blame me in the same
 ' Duty to my King? Besides, my Lord, if
 ' you

George's
 Loyalty.

‘ you can make it appear, that your Cause
 ‘ is just, and your Undertakings for the
 ‘ Good and Benefit of the Commonwealth,
 ‘ I shall be glad to follow you, and to
 ‘ draw my Sword in your Quarrel. He
 was about to proceed, when *Bonville* ta-
 king the Earl aside, perswaded him to
 take his friendly Offer, making no Que-
 stion, but if they could insinuate him in-
 to their Faction, he might perswade o-
 thers, but especially the Town of *Wake-*
field to come under their peaceable Obe-
 dience. This the Earl approving, he spoke
 to him after this Manner : ‘ Thy Sub-
 ‘ mission and Apology, which thou hast so
 ‘ boldly utter’d, hath taken off my Spleen,
 ‘ and mediated with me for thy Person
 ‘ and Pardon : And thereupon command-
 ing his Ambuscade to their Camp, he
 thus proceeded : ‘ My Rising in Arms is
 ‘ to suppress the Insolencies of a proud
 ‘ Prince and an insolent Prelate, who have
 ‘ much insulted on the Privileges and Li-
 ‘ berties of the Commonwealth. For the
 ‘ common Good I stand; but the great-
 ‘ est Inducement that drew me into this
 ‘ Cause was a Wizzard’s infallible Pro-
 ‘ phesy just at my very Birth, who thus
 ‘ calculated my Nativity, *That King Ri-*
chard and I should meet in London, and he
vail his Bonnet to me. To whom the *Pin-*
dar reply’d, ‘ Ay marry, my Lord, you
 ‘ speak

The Earl’s
 Discourse
 to George.

' speak to the Purpose, indeed, and upon
 ' this Encouragement I am willing to be
 ' both your Soldier and Servant: But, my
 ' Lord, might I humbly presume to ad-
 ' vise you, the better to justify your Pro-
 ' ceedings, and for a more compleat No-
 ' tion of your Affairs. There is an old re-
 ' verent Man in a Cave not far hence, who
 ' is a great Predictor, and was never known
 ' to fail in that Speculation. It were not a-
 ' miss to take his Advice, and to see how
 ' nicely his Calculation jumps with the
 ' former. Please you this Night to take
 ' some simple Provision, such as my poor
 ' Cottage can afford; my Boy shall lead
 ' you to his Cave, where you may be sa-
 ' tisfied of all your Doubts and Difficul-
 ' ties. The Motion was accepted, and
 concluded on. The Morning was much
 long'd for, and came. The *Pindar* had
 provided himself early, and convey'd all
 Things necessary for his Purpose into the
 Place last nam'd. The Boy conducted them
 thither, where the *Pindar* having disguised
 himself like an old *Hermit*, such as he
 had before describ'd, and counterfeiting
 his Voice, told them of all such Things
 as they had before related unto him, at
 which they wonder'd, calling them par-
 ticularly by their Names, and discover'd
 unto them the Intent of their Coming.
 But suddenly in the midst of their Dis-
 course,

course, he throws off his Counterfeit Habit, and with his good Staff, which never fail'd him at his Need, he so bestirr'd himself, that, after some small Resistance, having no Hole to creep out at, and being without their Ambush, he first disarm'd them, then seiz'd them as his Prisoners; and having provided certain Officers, with a strong Guard, he sent them to the House of Justice *Grymes*, by him to be safely convey'd to *London*, to be disposed of by the King, who was now return'd from the Holy Wars in *Palestine*.

The Earl seiz'd by *George*.

CHAP.

C H A P. IX.

How George A Green, having seiz'd the Arch-Rebels, plotted a Means how to be possess'd of his most beloved Beatrice, and what afterwards became of Armstrong and the Army.

AS the Pindar was vigilant and careful for the Honour of the King, and the Welfare of the Publick, so he was not altogether forgetful of his own private Affairs, especially of that great Affection which he bore to fair *Beatrice*, betwixt whom at all convenient Opportunities there had pass'd entertaining Letters, she solemnly protesting to him to let slip no Occasion of freeing her self from the close Confinement of her Father's House, and to fly unto him as her only Protection and Sanctuary. Hereupon he consider'd in some time a Device to accomplish it, *viz.* That his Boy *Willy* should put himself into the Habit of a Seamstress's Maid, and furnishing him with Lace-Bands, and other Commodities belonging to the Trade, he should with least Suspicion get Admittance to her. Fortune so well favour'd the Design, that the

*George's
Plot to
gain Bea-
trice.*

the Boy came to shew his Wares, when her Father was busied in receiving the Earl of Kendal and his Accomplices, which prevented a too curious Enquiry about the Lad; so that he was freely admitted to shew his Wares unto his Daughter, who was then in her Chamber. He was no sooner entred, but shutting the Door, he disclosed himself, with the Intent of his Coming, namely, that *Beatrice* should put her self into the Habit of a Seamstress, and muffling her Face, as if she had the Tooth-Ach (for in that Posture the Boy came in) and taking her Box and Laces, should pass thro' the Gates, leaving the Boy in her Habit to answer her Father, and to stand the Peril at all Adventures. Glad was fair *Beatrice* of the Motion, and with as much Speed as Willingness put off her own Cloaths to put on the other's. *Willy* was as nimble as she, and was as soon ready to be taken for Mrs. *Beatrice*, as she for a Seamstress's Servant; so that she easily, by holding her Handkerchief before her Mouth, as troubled with a Pain in the Teeth, past thro' the People, and got out of the Gates unquestion'd, where we leave her on her Way towards *Wakefield*, and *Willy* in her Chamber to answer her Escape, and return to *Armstrong*.

He, in the Earl's Absence, had the Charge of the Camp, who thinking himself as secure as the Earl had appear'd to be negligent, was set upon in the Night by Sir *William Musgrave* and his Son *Cuddy*, who took him when he was careless and asleep, by which Means they quite discomfited the whole Army, and young *Cuddy* fighting with *Armstrong*, took him Prisoner Hand to Hand. Glad of such a Present to welcome the King Home from the Holy War, and with such Progress, he made Preparations to hasten with him to *London*, and to present him as a Pattern of his Prowess.

In the *Imerim*, to return again to Justice *Grymes*, the greatest part of his Business being over, he stole privately to see his Daughter, in her Chamber; but finding another Maid, as he thought, sit sleeping in her Habit, he espied a Face with which he had not been acquainted; and thereupon he grew first into Amazement, and afterwards, fearing what he suspected to be true, he demanded of the Boy *Willy*, first, What she was? Then, How she came thither? Who, with a demure Countenance, answer'd, "She was a poor Gentlewoman, and came thither upon her Legs. *Grymes* then roughly ask'd him, What was be-

become of his Daughter? ' Truly, Sir, ' that Seamstress's Habit, which well be- ' comes your Daughter, hath been the ' Means to convey her abroad; but lest ' her Chamber should be found empty, ' she ' left me here as a Pawn till her Return. The Justice was still more and more enraged, threatening with all manner of Threats to use all the Rigour that the Law could possibly afford towards punishing him, without he told him the Truth.

But before this Matter could be fully ended betwixt the Justice and Willy, he was call'd down again about his Commonwealth Business, which was instantly to be dispatch'd out of Hand; yet still this young Impostor run in Grymes's Mind, and had too great an Impression upon his Affections, therefore he lock'd her in his Chamber, and took the Key along with him, with this Resolution, That if by her Means he had lost a Daughter, (he being a Widower) if she could give a good Account of her Birth and Means, she should make him a Wife. These and the like Meditations somewhat moderated his Choler for the present, therefore he made what Expedition he could to dispatch off his Prisoners, that he might have a more speedy Visit in her Quarters. But I must leave them there, to return to Robin Hood and

The HISTORY of George A Green,
his fair *Mariana*, who had now by this
Time overcome the greatest part of their
Journey, and shew what happen'd to them
at their Meeting with the *Pindar* and
his *Beatrice*.

C H A P. X.

Of that which happen'd between Robin Hood and his Mariana, and George A Green and his Beatrice; and how their great Animosity was at length reconciled, and of other pertinent Accidents.

Their
Concern
for *Willy*.

THE great Joy at the Meeting of George and his *Beatrice* was unspeakable, and the rather, because so unexpected. But as there is no Day so clear, but there will appear some Clouds to eclipse the Beauty of the Sky, so in their great Alacrity and abundance of present Content, there was one Thing that appear'd troublesome and grievous unto them, namely, the Danger *Willy* had incurr'd for their Sakes. There was no sudden Remedy could be used, and so their Fears continued, lest the Justice, ill inclined and deluded, should use him with the utmost and uncommon Rigour and Violence. To divert this Melancholy,

lancholy, and also to devise the most safe Course for his Delivery, *George* one Evening took *Beatrice* by the Arm, willing to shew her the pleasant and delightful Fields full of green Corn, and that she might take the Benefit of the fresh and wholesome Air, when on a sudden they espied a Company of rude and irregular Fellows, (as they thought) break a wide Gap thro' an Hedge, pluck up the Stakes, and, without making Choice of any Path, tread down the Corn, and make towards them. This Injury. *George's* great Spirit being not able to suffer, he made as much Haste to meet them as he could, tho' *Beatrice* by many Entreaties would have held him back: But the Nature of so wilful a Wrong prevailing above her Entreaties, or the Care of his own Safety, he took his Staff from his Neck, and bad them stand, and not only to give him an Account, but present Satisfaction and Recompence for the Damage they had done. *Rabin* and his Company had put off their Forest Green, and left their Bows and Arrows behind, and had only weapon'd themselves with good strong Quarter-Staves, according to the Fashion of the Country, who appearing to take the *Pindar's* Affront in great Scorn, told him, 'All Ways were alike to them, they being Travellers; and when they could make the next Way, they saw no Reason

Meet
with *Rabin* and
his Com-
rades.

'son

Their
Combat.

‘for they had to go about: They had
‘done no Damage, or if they had done
‘any, the Amends lay in his own Hands
‘Marry, and so it doth, answer’d the Pin-
‘dar, for I have that in my Hand, that
‘shall call you to a dear Reckoning: But
‘since you seem to be Men furnish’d both
‘with Limbs and Spirit, if you be such,
‘and not base and effeminate Cowards,
‘come not all upon me at once, but One
‘by One, and then have at you, if you
‘were twice as many more; and the Mo-
tion pleas’d them: *Starbatsch* entreated to
be the first, and was the first that was
laid at his Master’s Feet. *Little John* would
needs revenge his Friend and Fellow’s
Quarrel, but dipt his Finger in the same
Sauce. At this *Beatrice* encouraged, be-
gan to laugh; but *Mariana*, who had all
this while observ’d her, did nothing but
fret and vex. In the mean time, the
Fryar had buckled himself up for the Third
Encounterer; but *George* perceiving him to
be a Churchman by his shaven Crown, would
have refused him, but the nimble Fryar
would needs have a Bout with *George*, who
answer’d, ‘That since he begg’d a Cud-
‘gelling at his Hands, he was bound in
‘Conscience to deny the Church nothing,
‘and he would give it him surely; for the
Fryar was laid soon sprawling on God’s
Earth. Still *Beatrice* smiled, and still *Ma-*

riana

riana fretted; and whilst Robin and George
 were preparing for the Combat, for Ro-
 bin was willing to give him Liberty to
 breath, Mariana stept to Beatrice, and
 call'd her, 'Proud Mix, and bid her now ^{Mariana}
 'turn her Laughter into Tears, for she ^{and Bea-}
 'had a Companien coming, who would ^{trice quar-}
 'not only revenge his Friends, that were ^{rel}
 'disgraced, but beat, baffle, and dis-
 'arm her lubberly Sweet-heart. Bea-
 'trice, who was of an high Spirit, and the
 more embolden'd by the present Valour
 of her George, came up close to her, and
 told her again, 'Thou shalt find as much
 'Difference betwixt my Champion and
 'thine in Manhood, as betwixt the true
 'and natural Colour in my Cheeks, and
 'thy painted and plaister'd Beauty, dawb'd
 'upon in Wearing. These Words were
 enough to begin new Wars, and they
 were going together by the Ears at the
 Instant, and much ado had the Fryar and
 the rest (now recover'd) to keep them a-
 sunder. But the Two Virgins, who would
 have been Actors themselves, were now
 forced to be Spectators of one of the ^{Robin and}
 bravest Combates, that (I dare say) was ^{George}
 ever fought in Wakefield. Long it lasted, ^{engage.}
 and with great Difficulty they contested
 which should be Victor: At length both,
 being tired and weary, (saith Robin) 'Hold
 thy Hand, Noble Pindar, for I protest
 thou

Their
Friend-
ship.

Mariana
and Bea-
trice em-
brace.

‘thou art the stoutest Man that I ever yet
‘laid my Hand on. To whom the *Pindar*
reply’d, ‘Recal thy Words, for thou ne-
‘ver yet laid thy Hand on me. *Robin* re-
ply’d, ‘Not~~z~~ will I, Noble *George*, but in
‘Courtesie. Know then, I am *Robin Hood*,
‘this is my *Mariana*, and these my bold
‘Yeomen, who are come as far as the
‘Forest of *Sheerwood* only to prove thy Va-
‘lour, and to be Spectators of *Beatrice’s* Beau-
‘ty, both which I have found to exceed
‘that liberal Report which Fame hath gi-
‘ven out of them. At which Words the
Pindar embraced him, and told him, ‘That,
‘next to King *Richard*, he was the Man he
‘most honour’d, and craved Pardon of *Ma-
‘rilda*, otherwise call’d Maid *Mariana*. He
caused *Beatrice* to submit her self unto
her on her Knees, to which she willing-
ly assented; but the sweet Lady would
by no means suffer her, but lovingly kiss’d
and embraced her; who confess’d, that she
could not have thought that the North
Country could have bred such a Beauty.
Much Joy there was on all Sides: So
George invited both of them and their
Friends to an Entertainment, wherein he
shew’d himself to be as bountiful in Mind,
as he was famous in the Strength of his
Body; for their Welcome and Chear was
much above their Expectation, as better
suited with a large Mannor-House, than

a thatch'd Cottage. Nor did Robin come altogether unprovided from *Sheerwood*; for he had both Money and divers Heiffers laden with Provisions of all Sorts; which follow'd him on purpose to feast and revel with the *Pindar*, where I leave them in all the Content and Felicity that may be, and proceed to King *Richard* upon his new Welcome from his Wars in *Palestine*.

C H A P. XI.

How King Richard, after his Return, by reason of many Complaints made unto him, order'd those Abuses, which in his Absence had been committed by the Prince and Bishop, to be redress'd: How the Rebels were presented unto him, and his Disposing of them; and how George A Green was reported of to the King.

Richard, the First of that Name, for his great Hardiness and Magnanimity surnam'd, *Cuer de Lion*, King of *England*, after some Years spent in the Holy Wars, was received into the Kingdom with much Joy and Solemnity, which was no sooner past over, but divers Complaints, Petition-
K
wife,

wife, were deliver'd unto him concerning sundry Oppressions made by the ambitious Bishop, and Insolencies committed by the Prince, which, by the Advice of his Council, he studied how to reform. Those being brought to some reasonable Effect, he then began to consider of fresh Forces to be suddenly raised towards the Suppression of those Rebels in the North. In the middle of these Considerations, there arriv'd at *London* young *Cuddy Mus-*

Armstrong grave, with Sir *Gilbert Armstrong*, and presented him a Prisoner to the King, telling the Manner of his Surprizal, and how the grand Army was defeated, which was much further'd by the means of one *George A Green*, Pindar of the Town of *Wakefield*, who by taking a Spy of their's, and hanging him up before the Gate of *Sandon* Castle, they thereby discover'd the Strength of the Rebels, and learn'd how and when to take them careless and unprovided, which was the Occasion of so famous and fortunate a Victory. The King had scarce Leisure to commend their Care and Diligence, but Justice *Grymes* likewise, before the King could make sufficient Enquiry what became of the others, who were the Chief of the Rebellion, came and presented, as from *George A Green*, the Earl of *Kendal*, the Lord *Bonville*, and *Mannering*; representing it with such an exact

exact Testimony of the *Pindar's* Valour (as relating from the Beginning all such remarkable Things as are spoken of him in this History) that his Majesty made open Protestations, That he was glad to have so good and valiant a Subject, when turning towards the Earl of *Kendal*, the King in meer Derision vail'd his Bonnet to him, and said withal, ' My Lord, you are welcome to *London*. I did not think at my Departure you and I should have seen one another here upon these Terms. At which Salutation the Earl, remembering the former Prophecy, cursed the Wizzard, whose vain and idle Prediction had been the Occasion of his Ruine and Downfal. In short, the Rebels were all committed to the *Tower*, there to remain till their further Trial. This done, the King enquiring further of the *Pindar*, and finding more and more to be spoken in his Commendation, purposed to disguise himself, and, with the Earl of *Leicester* only, who had been a Co-partner with him in his Wars, and *Cuddy Musgrave* for their Guide and Conductor, to travel into the North, to take a View not only of this so famous Yeoman, but to listen withal how he was beloved in those Parts, and his Government beliked of. In this *Interim* of Time, whilst the King was preparing himself and the rest for the Journey, Justice *Grymes*

The King travels in Disguise.

being discharged of his Prisoners, and having Leave to depart into the Country, with great Thanks from the King for his late great Care, he long'd to be at Home to take a better View of that supposed Girl, who was left, as it were, as a Pawn for his Daughter. Great Charge he had given, that she should be safely kept and well attended, but to trust her no further than her Chamber, till he himself came to take her to a further Examination, which, by reason of his former pressing Business, he had not Leisure to do. We may suppose him now on his Way towards the Country, whither the King himself intended his private Progress.

We must now look back again to *Robert, Earl of Huntington*, and *Matilda*, otherwise call'd *Robin Hood* and Maid *Mariana*, whom we left feasting with *George A Green* and his sweet *Beatrice*, who, besides their courteous Entertainment, was willing to shew his Guests all the Sports and merry Passages of the Country.

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

Of the Town of Merry Bradstead, and a Custom therein, called Trail-Staff, observed by the Shooe-Makers, otherwise called, The Gentle Craft. How the King, Leicester, and Cuddy pass through this Town, and of their meeting with Robin Hood, and George A Green, and what further happen'd.

THERE is a Town not far from Wakefield, which is called *Bradstead*, where the Shooe-makers, by long Tradition, have observ'd a Custom, That no Person shall walk thro' the Town with his Staff upon his Shoulders, unless he will have a Bout or two with some one or other of the *Gentle Craft*: But if he trail'd it after him, he might pass peaceably without any Trouble or Molestation; for there was none would say so much as, *Black was his Eye*. It so happen'd, that the King's Way, with *Leicester's* and *Cuddy's*, happen'd to lie thro' this Town, who being disguised like Country Yeomen, and it seems not well acquainted with the Custom, like honest plain Travellers (as the Use was then) walk'd

The King
surpriz'd.

walk'd boldly with their Staves upon their Necks; which being espied by the Trade of Shooe-makers, Three stout Fellows of them, with every one a good Staff. In his Hand stepp'd out of their Shops, and beat their's from their Shoulders. The King having had genteel Entertainment in all other Places, wonder'd at such Rudeness, and gently demanded of them the Reason of that Violence then offer'd them. They answer'd him again, 'That it was a Privilege they had, which they had observed Time out of Mind.' Their Fathers 'had kept it, and they would leave it Hereditary to their Successors. They demanded of them, Whether they had any such Patent from the King, who answer'd again, 'They did not stand upon Patents, 'neither knew they any Law for it, saving *Staff-Ends-Law*; and that all their Fraternity were ready to maintain it with down-right Blows, and therefore bid them peremptorily to handle their Staves, for there was no other Way to save them from a present and sower Banging. The King told them, 'They were peaceable Men, 'and rather than to break their Custom, 'or to enter into unnecessary Quarrel, they 'would drag their Staves after them, and so did.

Whilst

Whilst these Things were debating, came *George*
George A Green disguised, with *Robin Hood* and *Robin*
 and his Yeomen, with every one a good come.
 Bat on his Neck. *George* having told *Robin* what
 mad merry Custom the jolly Shooe-makers maintain'd,
 and bringing him that Way on purpose only for Sport's sake,
 and to try what Mettle they had in them,
 espies the King, *Leicester* and *Cuddy* to
 trail their Staves after them; at which
 Sight being moved, 'See, *Robin*, (saith he)
 'Three lusty, able, proper Fellows, that
 'dare not advance their Staves for fear of
 'the Shooe-makers. Then asking *Robin Hood*,
 What he thought of them? He answer'd,
 'That he took them to be base cowardly
 'Fellows, and that it was pity such goodly
 'Shapes should cover such timorous and de-
 'generate Spirits, very Cowards. 'So, *George* a-
 'saith *George*, I'll presently correct them, abuses the
 and coming close up to them, he first be- King.
 gan to upbraid them with their Fear and
 Cowardize, and afterwards concluded, that
 if they did not presently raise their Staves,
 and bear them up, maugre any that durst to
 interpose, he himself would cudgel them
 more soundly, than the Townsmen were
 able to do: Had they express'd themselves
 to be valiant Men, they should have been
 excused. The King answer'd, 'I was ne-
 'ver put to so hard a Choice, as to be
 'beaten,



‘beaten, fight or fight not; and so desired to be excused, since they were Travellers, Men of Peace, and altogether unacquainted with any such hard Customs. His Words were scarce ended, when out came a Crew of Shooe-makers, every Man well appointed, and told them, That even they should obey their Custom, bid them down with their May-poles, and withal began to strike their Staves from their Necks. That was the Watch-Word which the *Pindar* and his Comrades look’d for, and now began the greatest Combat that was ever seen in the Street of *Bradstead*: For *Robin* and *George* began to clear the whole Street before them, insomuch, that all the Town rose, Masters, Apprentices and Journey-men: Not a Staff to be found, that was not used in Defence of their Liberty. There was nothing now thought on but Havock and Pall-Mall; the *Pindar* himself seem’d to be pounded in amongst them, and many a Shooe-maker was brought to his Last, and many a Staff was shiver’d, and made Skewers: Crack’d Crowns went current, tho’ many were found to take them against their Wills: The Shooe-makers themselves thought fit to give Ground, who had vow’d to lose Bodies and Souls in the Quarrel, and run to shelter themselves most shamefully. This put the King

Robin and George’s Valour.

L and

and *Leicester* in mind of the great Conflicts betwixt them and the Infidels; for even here no Christian could find Favour or Mercy during this Battle, and the Victory was still doubtful; for what the *Gentle Craft* wanted in Strength, they had in Number; yet neither Party were heard to sound a Retreat, till at length the *Pindar's* Disguise falling off in the Battle, he was no sooner discover'd and known, but the Shooe-makers cry'd, *Trail*; they flung down their Staves, and cast up their Caps, and bid them Welcome to the merry Town of *Bradstead* with a loud Shout. No Man thought more of his Hurt, for the Joy they had to see the *Pindar*; for as the *Trojans* thought such more honour'd than harm'd that were hurt by the Hand of *Achilles*, so amongst them it was held rather a Dignity than a Disparagement to wear any honourable Scar made by the Hand of the *Pindar*. *George* having breathed himself a little, thank'd them for their Lives, and presently commanded a Barrel of the best and strongest Ale should be brought and set in the Streets, which was instantly done, and paid for. Then *George* entreating them, as they tender'd him, to bid his friends Welcome, they then came about him like Gnats: But when *George* had told them who they were, namely, *Robin Hood* and his bold Yeomen,

who

Shooe-
makers
submit.

Drink to-
gether.

who had travell'd as far as from the Forest of *Sheerwood* to prove what Mettle was in their Fraternity, this was as good as a Plaister to every Man's broken Head; for, with a joint Acclamation, they gave them a loud and hearty Welcome. All this the King observing, and perceiving the Two prime Men to be there present whom he had such a great Desire to see, call'd to *Cuddy*, and bid him provide him the Royal Habit, which he had caused to be brought, in case of any needful Occasion. In the mean time, the Champions being all placed in the midst of the Street, and beleaguered on all Sides, the *Pindar* call'd for a deep Wayffel-Bowl, and filling it Brime full, and falling down upon his Knees, all the rest doing the like, he said, 'Here, *Robin Hood*, I drink an Health to good King *Richard*, and thou being the best Man in the Company, shalt first pledge it. That done, let it go round amongst the Shooe-makers: But casting his Eye aside, continued, 'Only I except from this Health those cowardly Travelers, who are unworthy to drink so brave and valiant a Prince's Health, who for fear durst not carry their Staves upon their Shoulders. Off went the Health with a great Shout, and was fill'd for *Robin*, which he had no sooner drunk, but the King casting a Princely Mantle about

The King sees all.

The *Pindar* begins the King's Health.

The King himself, and *Leicester* and *Cuddy* plucking off their disguised Habits, stept in amongst them, and said, 'Nay, *Robin Hood*, tho' you were of late held to be the best Man in the Company; yet, by the *Pindar's* good Leave, give King *Richard* License to be the Third Man at least to drink his own Health. These Words, graced with his Majestical Habit and Countenance, much astonish'd them on a sudden, but especially the Shoo-makers, who made no Question, than that they were all no better than Food for the Gallows. But at length the *Pindar* (whom nothing, save so great a Majesty, was able to daunt) recollecting himself, most humbly submitted unto the King, desiring his Grace and Pardon for those vile and rude Insolencies committed against his Sacred Majesty; whom the King as graciously pardon'd, and taking *Robin Hood* from his Knees, saluted him by the Name of *Robert*, Earl of *Huntington*, assuring him, upon his Kingly Promise, all his Lands and Revenues, injuriously seiz'd and extorted from him by the Bishop of *Ely* and Prince *John*, should be restor'd unto him; and that his *Marilda*, Daughter to the Earl of *Fitz-Walters*, should be conferr'd upon him, maugre those indirect Means by which the Prince his Brother had insidiated her Honour. This News of the King was pre-

presently spread abroad into the Country. Amongst other Homages, the King call'd for *George A Green*, and bid him kneel down, because that, for his great Services done to the State, his Purpose was to honour him with the Style of Knighthood; but he humbly besought his Majesty, that he might not exceed the Title of his Father, who lived and died only a poor Yeoman in the Country: That his Service, how mean soever, did shew better in that humble and mean State in which he lived, than if he were burthen'd with the greatest Titles of Honour. In this *Interim*, the Shooe-makers had retired themselves to consult how to appease the King's Anger, who they made no Question was most grievously incensed against them; when *Mariana* and *Beatrice* came and submitted themselves upon their Knees, the one presenting unto his Majesty a rich Belt, wrought with her own Hands for her *Robin*; the other a curious Scarf, beseeching his Majesty to accept of them, not according to their Worth, but their Tender of good Will and loyal Meaning towards his Sacred Person. The King wondering what those choice Beauties should be, and being resolved, most graciously accepted of their Presents, took them from their Knees, and lovingly embraced them, giving them

Thanks

*Grymes
and Willy.*

Thanks for their fine Presents, which he promised should be bountifully remembered. Now enters *Grymes*, bringing in *Willy*, the *Pindar's* Boy, and first desires Justice of the King against *George* for stealing away his Daughter; and that if it were so, that the Matter was so far past, that he must needs enjoy her, that it would please his Majesty that she who was left in her Place should be at his free Disposal. The King granted both, and first having in his Princely Goodness reconciled all Matters betwixt old *Grymes* and the *Pindar*, as that he should firmly enjoy her, with all his Estate, after his Decease, he next demanded, How he would have the other Virgin disposed of? Who desired her for his Wife; which the King had no sooner granted, but *Willy* discovering himself, it made a general Shout and Laughter unto all then present, with all which whilst they were much delighted, the old Justice was as much or more displeased. The Shoo-makers came, and presented the King with a Country Morrice-Dance, in which nothing was omitted that could be prepar'd on a sudden to give Content, which was so well order'd, that it much pleased him, who bad them ask what in Reason they could demand, who only petition'd, That the Law of *Trail-Staff*, which they had

*The
Shooe-
makers
Petition.*

had held only by Tradition, might still remain ; and that it would please his Majesty, in regard he had vail'd his Staff unto them, it might be sufficient and secured to them for ever ; to which his Majesty graciously and willingly consented.

F I N I S.

me
Forgive your
God will punish
me

James George Brogden
1 September

My Journal H. 1800

December 4 1800

My Mary

God Bless the

1800 1801 1802 1803

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Yours
Dear

K

